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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: : Before the Examiner:

Basso et al. : Fearer, Mark D.

Serial No.: 10/713,343 : Group Art Unit: 2143

Filing Date: November 14, 2003 : IBM Corporation

Title: REDUCING NUMBER OF: IP Law Dept. YXSA/Bldg. 002

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DATA MESSAGES AND OFF-:

LOADING THE TCP CONNECTION SETUP AND TERMINATION MESSAGES

REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111

Mail Stop Amendment Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action having a mailing date of May 21, 2008, having a three-month shortened statutory period for response set to expire on August 21, 2008, please reconsider the rejections of the claims in view of the following amendments and remarks:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 4 of this paper.